

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 010959  
ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05  
NSCE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON:MEM  
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES  
PM/ISP:TMATHISON  
EUR/SOV:DHERSPRING  
EUR/NE:SWORREL  
JOINT STAFF:COL. PARRISH  
OSD/ISA:RJEFFERSON

-----180040Z 072350 /66

O P 180004Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

S E C R E T STATE 010959

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED UK LIGHTNING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT VISIT TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 010959

USSR

REF: USNATO 0125, DTG 121312Z JAN 77

1. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND EUROPEAN PERMREPS TAKE LEAD  
DURING THE JANUARY 18 LUNCHEON DISCUSSION OF RAF VISIT TO  
THE SOVIET UNION SINCE DIRECT IMPACT OF AIRCRAFT EXCHANGES

WOULD BE MUCH MORE ON EUROPEANS THAN ON OURSELVES. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SUBJECT FOR PRIOR NAC CONSULTATION.

2. WE HAVE CONSIDERED PROS AND CONS OF SUCH A VISIT AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS FIND BOTH LARGELY SPECULATIVE. OUR GENERAL VIEW IS THAT THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE IS-NOT DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES OUR INITIAL THINKING FOR YOUR BACKGROUND:

PROS -- HAVING CONSIDERED AND DISCARDED SUCH THINGS AS CBMS AND POSSIBLE DEFECTORS, WE FIND THE ONLY POSSIBLE QTE PRO UNQTE TO BE SOME SMALL CHANCE OF ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND BETTER EAST-WEST ATMOSPHERICS.

CONS -- WE CANNOT IMAGINE A WORSE TIME FOR US TO TAKE A POSITION ON THIS EXCHANGE OF AIRCRAFT VISIT CONSIDERING THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON SOVIET DEFENSE TRENDS AND PACT-NATO CAPABILITIES. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY UNTIMELY IN VIEW OF THE UK DEFENSE CUTBACKS.

-- FROM A NATO STANDPOINT, ONE HAS TO WONDER WHETHER THE PROSPECT OF SOVIET COMBAT AIRCRAFT FORMATIONS TRANSITTING NATO AIRSPACE IS HEALTHY.

3. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, BEYOND AGREEING THAT THE UK SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED THE NAC, WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD REMAIN INTERESTED BUT SILENTLY SYMPATHETIC WITH OTHER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 010959

EUROPEANS WHO WE HOPE WOULD RAISE SOME OF THE FOREGOING POINTS. IF AN UNEXPECTED CONSENSUS SHOULD FAVOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD WANT TO RE-EVALUATE IT AGAIN BEFORE FORMAL US POSITION IS TAKEN.

4. FOR LONDON: ANY FURTHER INSIGHT OR INFORMATION EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

KISSINGER

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009